

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is provided for collecting at least partially retted plants and winding them into bales. The method is characterised in that the collected and wound plants are fibrous plants with previously cut tops and bottoms. A machine to perform the method has a gatherer (3) for collecting at least partially retted plants with previously cut tops and bottoms, a crusher (4) for grinding the stems of the plants without tops and bottoms to break the wood filaments therein, a decorticator (10) for scarifying the ground stems to release the wood filaments and shives, a unit (31) for laying flat the fibres scutched in this way, and a baler (32) for winding the same into bales.